

REMARKS

Claims 42-43, 47, 49-50, 52-55, 59, 61, 64-66 are amended. Claims 67-69 have been added. Claims 42-69 remain in the application. No new matter has been added as a result of the claim amendments.

CONSIDERATION OF PREVIOUSLY FILED INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

STATEMENTS

On March 28, 2006, Ronald M. Pomerence, representative for the Applicants, discussed, with the Examiner, Bharat Barot, the Examiner's consideration of previously filed Information Disclosure Statements. Applicants discussed an IDS mailed by the Applicants on March 16, 2005, which was received by the PTO on or about March 21, 2005; and an IDS mailed by the Applicants on July 8, 2005, which was received by the PTO on or about July 11, 2005.

Applicants request that the Examiner initial a copy of the form PTO 1449 provided with each IDS such that the record clearly indicates that the Examiner has considered the information cited therein.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 42-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Varma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,564,246) in view of Ludwig et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,237,025). The rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Amended Claim 42 recites, in part:

maintaining a list of items for a user of the first instant messaging application;
receiving user input that selects a portion of content displayed within the first region
of the instant messaging interface of the first instant messaging application;
wherein the content displayed in the first region includes a set of items;
wherein the portion selected by the user input includes a subset of items from the first
set of items;
in response to said receiving, storing data that reflects said selected portion of content;
and
wherein the step of storing data includes updating said list of items to include the
subset of items;
without affecting content displayed in said second and fourth regions, causing
information to be displayed in said third region based on said stored data,
wherein said data displayed in said third region is related to said portion of
content selected in said first region;
wherein said data displayed in the third region includes information relating to each
item in said list of items.

Support for these limitations is clearly present in the specification, at least at page 5, lines 6-12, page 10, lines 4-21. The combination of Varma and Ludwig fails to teach or suggest these limitations.

Ludwig does not maintain a list of items for a first user of an instant messaging environment, as claimed. Lists are understood to have some sort of organization, as opposed to an unorganized collection of information. The Specification at page 5, lines 6-12 provides examples of how the claimed list may be implemented, including a data structure such as a list, table, or tree. However, Claim 42 is not limited to these examples.

Ludwig teaches that data in a “snapshot” can be shared (FIG. 2B) and that the snapshot can be annotated and shared. Ludwig teaches that the original snapshot can be stored and that a combination of the original snapshot and annotations made to the snapshot can be stored (col. 27, lines 6-9). However, storing a snapshot or annotations made to the snapshot is not “maintaining a list of items for a first user of an instant messaging environment,” as claimed.

Even if Ludwig were to store multiple snapshots, this would not teach the limitation as it would not be maintaining a list. At a minimum, this is because there is no teaching or suggestion in Ludwig for maintaining any order or organization of the snapshots.

Furthermore, Ludwig does not teach or suggest, “wherein the step of storing data includes updating said list of items to include the subset of items,” as claimed. As previously discussed, Ludwig teaches that snapshots may be stored. However, storing a snapshot in no way updates a list, even if another snapshot has been previously stored. At a minimum, this is because there is no teaching or suggestion in Ludwig that the newly stored snapshot is part of a list with other previously stored snapshots.

Ludwig does not teach or suggest “wherein said data displayed in the third region includes information relating to each item in said list of items.” as claimed. For reasons already discussed, Ludwig does not maintain or update a list of items, as claimed. Therefore, it follows that any snapshots that are shared between users are not information relating to each item in said list of items, as claimed.

Varma fails to remedy this deficiency in Ludwig, in that Varma fails to teach or suggest any of these limitations. Applicants note that Varma is being used in the rejection to

allegedly teach limitations related to the second and fourth regions. However, the list of items recited in Claim 42 is based on selected portions of the first region, and the data relating to each item in said list of items is displayed in the third region.

Moreover, Varma is concerned with a synchronous collaboration environment in which different views of a common workspace are used to allow users to have either independent views or shared views of the data in the workspace (Abstract). However, Varma does not teach or suggest “maintaining a list of items for a user of the first instant messaging application,” as claimed. Further, Varma does not teach or suggest “wherein the step of storing data includes updating said list of items to include the subset of items,” as claimed. Still further, Varma does not teach or suggest “wherein said data displayed in the third region includes information relating to each item in said list of items.” as claimed.

For the foregoing reasons, the combination of Varma and Ludwig fails to teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 42.

Independent Claims 54 and 66 comprise similar limitations to those discussed in the response to the rejection Claim 42. Therefore, Independent Claims 54 and 66 are allowable for at least reasons discussed in the response to Claim 42. The dependent claims are believed to be allowable based on their incorporation of limitations from the Independent claims, as well as additional limitations that distinguish over cited art.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 67-69 have been added. Support for these limitations is clearly present in the specification, at least at page 5, lines 6-12. No new matter has been added. Claims 67-69 are allowable, at least because, they incorporate limitations from Claim 42.

Moreover, there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited art of “maintaining a data structure of said list of items,” as recited in Claim 67.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant believes that all issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed and that allowance of the pending claims is appropriate.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

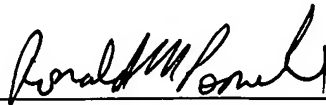
To the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, the Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

Date: March 30, 2006



Ronald M. Pomerence
Reg. No. 43,009

2055 Gateway Place, #550
San Jose, CA 95110
Telephone: (408) 414-1080, ext. 210
Facsimile: (408) 414-1076

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on 3/30/2006 by Trudy Bagdon
Trudy Bagdon